# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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**A LITTLE RUSSIAN GIRL READY FOR HER WRITING LESSON**

(See Bulletins No. 1 and No. 5)

### HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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## What Is the G. P. U. ?

FRANCE has been stirred by charges that the G. P. U. is operating within its borders.

Squads of French detectives are investigating the disappearance of a former Russian general who had been elected president of an organization of anti-Soviet Russian exiles. One theory is that the G. P. U. kidnapped him.

What is the G. P. U.?

"The G. P. U.," says Junius B. Wood, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, "is not a new institution, merely a new name, in Russia. It is the successor of the Okhrana under the Tsar, with its 40,000 to 50,000 informers and a smaller number of paid agents permeating every class of society. The Cheka of the Revolution was a transition between the two.

### Where Is Ivan? The G. P. U. Knows

"The scope has been enlarged by uniformed ranks of police and soldiers. Such a surveillance, with its absolute power, is a system with which the Russian has long been familiar.

" 'Where's Ivan Ivanovitch? I saw him last night,' may be a question at the afternoon tea.

" 'Lubianka,' is the awed whisper.

"The answer is perfectly clear. Ivan 'sits,' the vernacular for being in jail, in Lubianka, the imposing Moscow building which formerly was an insurance company's offices, the red clock of which now glows through the night over Lubianka Square, the dreaded preliminary jail and headquarters of the G. P. U.

"Just what Ivan has done to get himself within the clutches of the law is usually a surmise, even among his closest friends. However, it is quite certain that the G. P. U. has some information. The arrest is not a haphazard happening.

"He may have been speculating with government or cooperative funds in his charge, smuggling in violation of the foreign-trade monopoly, leading a private life which was not exemplary, or indulging in activities which did not contribute to the stability of the government.

### A Midnight Visit of G. P. U. Agents

"However, the scene enacted during the hours he was supposed to be peacefully sleeping in his home is a familiar picture. Around 1 o'clock in the morning a chugging motor truck has stopped in front of the building where he, and possibly his family, have a room. Other tenants may have been awakened, but they do not open doors or stick their heads out of windows when a motor chugs in front at that hour of the morning. Their curiosity is bridled until the truck is gone and the building has a tenant less.

"The detail, usually two agents and two policemen, enters Ivan's apartment. There is no rough work unless the host starts it. The visitors are polite, but firm and thorough. In fact, they are so meticulous that usually they express regret to other members of the family for the necessity of disturbing them, and present a paper for their signature to prove that the proceedings have been conducted courteously.

"Few questions are asked, but the search is painstaking. Pages of books are

*© Photograph by Lewis R. Freeman*

**A STRETCH OF THE COLORADO RIVER, FOR WHICH THE STATE WAS NAMED**

**The origin of the name probably can be found in the color of the river's waters, rather than the brilliant color of the rocks in the Grand and other canyons (See Bulletin No. 2).**

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## What Would Happen if We Used the Original State Names

IF THE United States were to adopt the recent European practice of reviving old place names such as Oslo for Christiania, Nidaros for Trondjhem, Helsinki for Helsingfors, Warszawa for Warsaw, and Praha for Prague, the roster of the 48 States would vary in many cases.

Nineteen States have different original Indian names they could go back to: Alibamu, Arizonac, Quonoktacut, E-dah-hoe, Illini, Ayuhba (Iowa), Kanza, Kentake, Massawadschuasch (Massachusetts), Mishigamaw (Michigan), Missisipi, Missiuri, Ohionhiio, Tanasee, Tejas, Ute, Mishkonsing, Mcheuwomink (Wyoming), Akansea.

Restoration of old names would require Delaware to revert to De la Warr, the name selected in honor of Lord de la Warr. New York was named for the Duke of York, but if origins were to be pushed back as far as possible the Empire State would have to revive the old English form, becoming New Eurewic.

### George Washington Thought Illinois Meant Black Island

Revival of an historic name, such as that of Lwow for Lemberg in Poland, prompts a return to Vert Mont in honor of the French and Roode Eylandt in respect to Dutch explorers.

Illinois serves as an example of States whose present names are pitfalls to the unwary. Persons not familiar with the French adaptation of the original Indian tribe name pronounce the last syllable "noise." George Washington, it is said, called the Illinois country Black Island because he thought the French spelled it Ile Noir.

States whose names would be unchanged by a drive to return to original forms are: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

### Naples in 13 States but None in Italy

It is also worth noting that scores of American towns are named for Old World places that are non-existent on the maps of the countries where the originals occur.

Citizens of towns named Ghent, in Kentucky, Minnesota, New York and West Virginia can find, when they travel in Europe, no city which the Belgians call Ghent.

Belgium has a Gand, but no Ghent.

There are Naples in 13 American States and Belgrades in 6, but their counterparts in Europe are Napoli, by its circling Italian bay, and Beograd, capital of Jugoslavia.

The town of Oslo, Minnesota, has the distinction of anticipating a change in Europe's geographic names years before it took place. Oslo was carrying on in Minnesota long before the name of the capital of Norway was changed from Christiania to the older designation, Oslo.




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ruffled, clothes are examined, as are carpets, furniture, pictures on the wall, even the heating ducts. Such documents as are pertinent or which they do not have time to read are taken along. Ivan goes with them.

### No Explanation; Nothing in the Newspapers

"The news of the arrest is not in the newspapers the following day and no explanation is asked from the G. P. U., nor would one be given if it were.

"In a few days Ivan may be back among his friends, possibly having been merely suspected of something serious because he was too garrulous. More likely he will 'sit' in silence in Lubianka, and the first word to the outside will be that he has been transferred to Butyrki, a prison where relatives can call and exchange a few words with him through an iron grille."

**Bulletin No. 1, March 17, 1930.**

*© Photograph by "Russ-Photo"*

**A RUSSIAN PEASANT WOMAN EXAMINES AN AMERICAN-MADE PLOW**

**The Soviet Government's present agricultural farm policy is to organize the peasants in groups for cultivation of the land apportioned in large areas. This program, shifting from private ownership and cultivation of small plots, calls for the introduction of tractors and farm implements on a large scale. The government has contracted for the building of an American-style, mass-production factory for making tractors in large numbers.**

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## Nepal: Where Cash Registers Are Palace Ornaments

THE NEW prime Minister of Nepal, that secretive kingdom in the Himalayas that is barricaded from the world by mountain ranges, announced some changes of importance to his people the day he took office.

He abolished the tariff on salt and cotton, he abolished grazing dues, and he raised the pay of all soldiers and officers. And presumably American cash registers still come into Nepal duty free.

American cash registers are ornaments in Nepal. They glittered from pedestals lining the white marble staircase in the palace of the prime minister, according to a visitor to the country.

### American Machines Have Better Chance of Entering Nepal Than Americans

The burnished beauty of cash registers gleams beside the polished nickel of American automatic scales, mechanical chewing gum venders and slot machines. But they are never punched. According to Nepalese ideas these American machines are better than bronze statues for decorating a staircase.

American products have a better chance of entering Nepal than Americans because the isolated mountain kingdom does not welcome foreigners.

Only a few British officials are permitted to come over the pass from India, and they are not permitted to go far from Khatmandu, the capital. "The Country of Four Passes" the Nepalese call their land, which is indeed a walled valley with four hill gates. Their domain under the eves of the Himalayas measures 500 miles long and spreads 140 miles at its greatest width. Within it live 5,600,000 hill people governed by a monarch.

The monarch's commands, however, are both made for him and enforced by the prime minister who lives in the cash register palace.

### Caste Members Must Watch Their Steps

Nepal is the stronghold of orthodox, unadulterated Hinduism. The local caste system has more rules than intercollegiate football. Thus among the high castes are:

1. Brahmans, who eat rice cooked only by members of their own caste. They drink water from the hands of members of castes Nos. 2 to 19.

2. Surmgasi, who eat rice cooked by Brahmans, Thakuris, and Khas only. They drink water from the hands of all castes up to No. 19.

3. Thakuri, who eat rice cooked by Brahmans only. They drink water from hands of all members of all castes up to 19.

The five castes from 20 to 24 do not have Brahmans as priests. Their priests are members of their own castes. They have no dealings of any kind with castes 1 to 19. They must leave the road on the approach of a member of castes Nos. 1 to 19 and call out to give warning of their approach. They may not enter the courtyards of temples.

### Gurkhas of Nepal Numerous in Indian Army

As among the Russian Cossacks, war is the chief business of the best people in Nepal. The army is the only profession open to a "gentleman," and so the rare visitor sees troops everywhere. More than one-third of the Nepalese are said to be capable of bearing arms. Each town has a parade ground. The capital has the largest, of course, and it is termed the most picturesque parade ground in the world. Twenty-five thousand troops can be reviewed upon it at one time. The war-

### Two Finlands in Minnesota Are Spelled Differently

Contrary to United States postal regulations, which prohibit two towns of the same name in one State, there are two Finlands in Minnesota. One spells its name Finland and the other Suomi. Both are named for the European homeland of Finn settlers, the first for the Anglicized name of the new republic and the second for the true native name which Finns themselves use.

By majority rule 7 Venices, in California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio and Utah, can't be wrong. Yet in trying to invoke the charm of the famous Italian port only an Arizona community has copied the true Italian name, Venezia.

The creation in nearly all European countries of boards on geographic names, which have handed down decisions on official names, raises a problem for scores of American towns. Shall they follow their European models?

### Texas Has a Roma and a Rome

Shall 11 Viennas become 11 Weins? Shall 8 Strasburgs in the United States recognize France's ownership of Alsace since the World War by changing to Strasbourg? Shall 9 Smyrnas accept the new Turkish spelling, which was adopted coincident with the change from Arabic to Latin letters, and blossom out as 9 Izmirs? It is a problem also for 14 Milans, 3 Pragues and 10 Warsaws.

Texas, for some reason not clear, shows a tendency to adopt true spellings of European namesake towns. Within its borders is a Roma (also a Rome) and a Milano. To be consistent, Texas ought to change the following towns: Cologne, Corinth, Crete, Egypt, Irin, Genoa, Geneva, Holland and Moscow to Köln, Korinthos, Kriti, Misr, Eireann, Genova, Genève, Nederland and Moskva.

**Bulletin No. 2, March 17, 1930.**

*© Photograph from Walter H. Crockett*

**GATHERING MAPLE SAP IN A VERMONT "SUGAR BUSH"**

**The Green Mountains of Vert Mont begin at this season of the year to yield a valuable harvest to natives of this State. Maple sugar-making is one of the major industries of Vermont.**

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## Nova Lisboa, Newest African Capital

APPEALS from one of the world's youngest capitals have won promises from Portugal of assistance for Angola.

Nova Lisboa is the new capital of the Portuguese colony that spreads over a broad area between Belgian Congo and British South West Africa.

A slump in coffee, one of the principal products of the colony, has caused bad times. Pleas from Nova Lisboa have brought pledges of assistance by the mother country.

### Loanda Was Capital for 350 Years

The Angolan government headquarters moved in 1928 from the low and unhealthy coast city of Loanda, which had been its capital for 350 years, to the breezy inland town nearly a mile above sea level.

Nova Lisboa, which in some ways may be compared to Canberra, the made-to-order capital of Australia, lies in the heart of the "white man's country" of Portugal's African domains. Angola lies close to the Equator, in a latitude corresponding to that of central Brazil and the Philippines, and its coastal lowlands, especially in the north, are hot and unhealthful.

For nearly three centuries this was the only region of the vast territory occupied by Portuguese and administered by them. Europeans could not thrive in the hot, fever-ridden sections, and, as a result, while activities were confined to the coast region, the colony remained largely peopled by negroes.

### Railroad Has Been Extended Over Old Slave Route

Not until the middle of the nineteenth century did the spread of Portuguese influence to the interior highlands become important. In the beginning of the twentieth century railroads were extended from the sea inland over the mountains that parallel the coast, and, following the lines of steel, the development of the interior plateau has been rapid. The movement of the colony's capital to the highlands was the final recognition that Angola's future lies in this region which has a climate and resources comparable to those of Europe and temperate America.

The new capital lies 225 miles inland, just within the mountain range that marks the seaward rim of the plateau. It is situated on the principal railway of Angola, which starts at the port of Lobito, swings down the coast a few miles to Benguela, one of the older coast towns, and then strikes inland up the steep cliff that divides the plateau from the coastal plain. In its straight climb up the steep grade the railway makes use of a cog device.

All about Nova Lisboa (the new name supplants the old one of Huambo) are large areas of fertile soil, much of it already producing coffee, grain, and the familiar fruits of Europe and America. The railway has been pushed through along the old trading path to central Africa, where for centuries long files of natives on foot have carried freight. Along this path, too, thousands of slaves have been brought to the coast for shipment. One of the important economic results of the railway has been the release of the large numbers of natives formerly engaged in burden bearing. Some have taken up the collection of rubber, beeswax, and similar "jungle products," while others have engaged in agriculture.

The contrast between Loanda, the former capital, and Nova Lisboa, the present one, affords a good index to the old Angola and the colony's future prospects.

like spirit of the ruling Gurkhas, which has made Nepal an almost independent state, has also served the needs of England. Nepalese have been recruited in great numbers for crack units in the native Indian army.

Splendid and colorful as are the reviews and state ceremonies, with their elephants in gorgeous trappings and the officers in brilliant uniforms, the Nepal women outdo them. They believe in color, and lots of it. They fold yards and yards of muslin, gathered at the waist, spreading at the feet, so that a Nepalese girl of fashion looks as if she were about to depart for a masquerade ball dressed like a fan held upside down. Above the skirt the Nepal lady wears a tight-fitting velvet jacket. Her hair she winds in a knot, fastened above her forehead with a gold plaque. A heavy gold necklace and bangles complete her attire, but the final touch is the theatrical darkening of the eyelids by which she expresses languorous lure. Her female attendants, by way of contrast, wear oriental trousers.

Nepal is probably the only country in the world reached by stairs. The person lucky enough to get a visitor's permit literally steps down into the valley, because the main road from India ceases to be a road when it gets to the highest passes, and at the last gate in the hills, the Chandra Giri, the traveler descends 2,300 feet by stone steps—probably the world's longest stairway. At the bottom are good roads and motor cars to convey the visitor to the capital.

**Bulletin No. 3, March 17, 1930.**

© *Photograph by S. Singh*

**A NEPALI MILKMAID**

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## Churchless Chita

ALL THE churches of Chita have been closed, according to news dispatches reaching the United States.

Church activities have been reduced in Russia and Siberia since the creation of the Soviet Government, and Chita is a large city in which services in all churches, synagogues and shrines have been discontinued.

Not long ago Chita was prominent in world news as the concentration point for Soviet soldiers who were sent east to enforce Soviet claims in the Manchuria railroad dispute with China.

### Got Its Start as a City of Exiles

Chita's remoteness has been a factor in its apparent obscurity, although it is one of the important stops on the Trans-Siberian Railway, within 300 miles of the Manchurian border.

Like many Siberian towns, Chita got its start as a Russian place of exile. At the beginning of the eighteenth century there were a few native huts on the site, and nomadic tribes set up their tents in the neighborhood. But not until 1825, when the first contingent of exiles arrived there, did Chita begin to boom.

The exiles built their own jail. Their wives built their homes along a street which was named "Lady Street." That street is still so named and is one of the principal thoroughfares of the town.

Now Chita has a mixture of Chinese, Russian and Central Asian inhabitants that number about 57,000, but after more than a century's growth it still retains many aspects of a frontier town of America's early West. Timber is plentiful in the mountains and on the plains in the region of Chita, and most of the houses are constructed of wood.

### Loaves of Bread Look Like Cart Wheels

The wide, sandy streets of the town stretch from the doorsteps of one row of one-story frame structures to another row of the same height and construction. Now and then there is a Chita "skyscraper" of three or four stories. Some are of brick or stone; others of stucco over frame facades which at a distance appear to be sturdy structures.

Business bristles in the "downtown" streets of Chita. In one street the Chinese merchants display an array of drygoods on stands crowded together as they are in the alley-like thoroughfares of Canton. Cheap calico prints, Turkey reds, silks, spools of thread, needles and other sewing cabinet notions are their principal stock in trade. Russian tobacco merchants display cartons of cigarettes with long paper mouthpieces—a Russian device that probably works as a fire precaution for the protection of long-whiskered Chitans.

There are also shops where dusty blocks of tea may be purchased, candy shops with an assortment of questionable sweets, and eating houses whose proprietors apparently do not interest themselves in the cleanliness of their waiters. Swarthy soap merchants do not look as if they make use of their highly colored and odoriferous wares. In the street, fat, shiny-faced Buriat tribesmen stand by their carts of flour, fresh meat and vegetables, silently awaiting customers; hawkers and traders of all kinds strain their vocal cords boosting their meager stock of cheap jewelry, baskets, cakes, and what-nots. A rasping voice draws the traveler's attention to a comely peasant maiden sitting beside a pile of round, thin loaves of bread which, in appearance, are not unlike the solid wood wheels of her small cart.

Loanda, in a hot, steamy, sea-level plain, is an unhealthy, sleepy place, and its population shows little energy. The mark of centuries of the easy-going life of the Tropics is upon it. Nova Lisboa has something of the rawness of a frontier town, but it is visibly growing. Its railway is busy, and several good motor highways radiate from the town into the fertile hinterland. One of the recent steps of the government in the new capital was to establish an airdrome and hangars. Boers, who trekked from the Transvaal after the Boer War, are an important element of the population of the plateau country around Nova Lisboa. The opening up of the uplands, too, has brought a fresh immigration from Portugal.

### Katanga Copper Will Come to the Sea Through Angola

Under the more liberal recent administration, Angola seems to have as rosy a future as any part of central Africa. The railway which passes through the new capital, and which is being steadily extended eastward, will be the most direct route from south-central Africa to Europe. The road will eventually tap the rich Katanga copper mines of the southernmost tip of the Belgian Congo, and will provide the shortest haul of the valuable ore to salt water.

The plateau of Angola, which is free from the tsetse fly, provides the closest African cattle-raising region to Europe. Some enthusiasts assert that it will become, as a source of beef for Europe, "a second Argentine."

Angola has a coast line on the Atlantic Ocean of nearly 1,000 miles and extends inland an average distance of 700 miles. It is more extensive than the large slice of the United States covered by California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona with Maryland, Delaware and Rhode Island added. Its population, mostly of natives, is estimated to be from two to four millions.

**Bulletin No. 4, March 17, 1930.**

© *Photograph by Graham Romeyn Taylor*

**MOSCOW CITIZENS SPEND MUCH TIME STANDING IN LINE**

**These women are standing in line to buy cloth. Food and other supplies are also obtained usually by lining up before the government shops. If a woman has a baby in her arms, she gets a preferred place in the queue. This cloth line, even in winter, often forms as early as 8 o'clock in the evening for the sale the following day. At one time not more than 84 inches could be purchased by any individual (See Bulletin No. 1).**

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**YOUNG JUGGLERS PERFORM AT A RAILWAY STATION NEAR CHITA**

**The trio, one with three knives, another with sticks and rings, do their tricks to the accompaniment of a doleful Chinese song. The leader punctuates his performance by catching his sticks on a drum, while the diminutive fourth member passes the hat for the passengers' coins.**

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